An ADE Newsletter for Test Coordinators

August 2015

The Examiner

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Irene Hunting, Deputy Associate Superintendent
Announcements

AzMERIT Standard Setting and Spring 2015 AzMERIT Reports

The AzMERIT Standard Setting Committee met in mid-July. The cut-scores recommended by this committee have been provided to the State Board of Education. The Board is expected to discuss and adopt AzMERIT cut scores at their August 14, 2015 Special Board Meeting.

Shortly after the Board adopts the AzMERIT cut scores, the date for the release of electronic reports on AIR's online reporting system and the date for the receipt of paper student reports will be finalized and announced. AzMERIT results are expected in October.

Mock-ups of reports, a *Guide to the AzMERIT Family Report*, and an *AzMERIT Reporting Guide* are in development and will be posted to the ADE website in September. Further information about how to prepare for the Spring 2015 AzMERIT online reports will also be provided in September.

AzMERIT Performance Level Descriptors

In early summer, hundreds of Arizona educators reviewed and provided feedback on the detailed AzMERIT Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs) developed for use by the AzMERIT Standard Setting Committee. The finalized PLDs, along with an introductory video, have been posted to the AzMERIT Support Materials page of the ADE website: www.azed.gov/assessment/azmeritsupportmaterials/.

The introductory video is designed to be watched on your own or with a group of fellow educators. In the presentation, there will be references to the PLDs; it might be best to download them prior to watching the introductory video. Please note, to view this presentation, you may need to download the latest version of Adobe Flash.

Civics Test – new high school graduation requirement

Earlier this year, the Arizona legislature passed the American Civics Act requiring students, beginning with the graduating class of 2017, to pass a 100-question civics test based on the naturalization civics test. Local school governing boards are responsible for the administration of this test.

While ADE is not responsible for the administration of this newly required civics test, schools and districts have asked ADE for guidance regarding this test. With the help of the Maricopa County Education Service Agency and Arizona educators, the Assessment Section developed a version of the required civics test that is primarily multiple choice. An administration manual including the answer key and the ADE version of the test has been posted to the High School Graduation section of the ADE website: www.azed.gov/hsgraduation/.

The use of the ADE-developed test is optional.

Achievement Assessments

Completing School Year 2015-2016 Tech Readiness Reports

For Schools that were CBT in Spring 2015

Spring 2015 CBT schools will be CBT schools for future AzMERIT test administrations. These schools do not need to take any action to remain CBT schools and do not need to update their inventory in the Tech Readiness Report. However, if a CBT school loses its ability to administer the computer-based test, email the AzMERIT team (AzMERIT@azed.gov) with details of the situation. We will provide guidance regarding next steps.

For Schools that were PBT in Spring 2015

Spring 2015 PBT schools must verify/update their technology inventory for school year 2015-2016 and must select their testing mode for the next AzMERIT test administration. The timing to do these two tasks will depend on whether the school is participating in Fall 2015 AzMERIT EOC testing or not.

Schools Participating in Fall 2015 AzMERIT EOC Testing

Schools that were paper-based in Spring 2015 and will participate in the Fall 2015 AzMERIT EOC administration must **verify/update their technology inventory and select their testing mode (PBT or CBT) during the window of August 10 – 26**. Schools that opt for CBT Fall 2015 testing will also be CBT for Spring 2016 without further action. Schools that opt for PBT Fall 2015 testing will be required to again verify/update their inventory as applicable and select their testing mode for Spring 2016 after August 26.
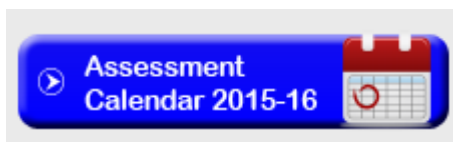
Schools NOT Participating in Fall 2015 AzMERIT EOC Testing

Schools that were paper-based in Spring 2015 but will **not** participate in the Fall 2015 AzMERIT EOC administration must **verify/update their technology inventory and select their testing mode (PBT or CBT) during the window of August 27 – January 13**.

Updating Technology Inventory and Selecting Testing Mode

District Test Coordinators should already have the user role of "Achievement District Test Coordinator" in ADEConnect. With this user role, you will have access to the Tech Readiness application within ADEConnect. If you do not have access to ADEConnect or the Tech Readiness application, contact your district's ADEConnect LEA Entity Administrator.

To update a school's inventory and other technology information, go to the Tech Readiness Inventory page within the Tech Readiness application. Make changes as needed and enter the estimated student count for AzMERIT testing. Save the page. Then, view the Tech Readiness Results page and make a selection for testing mode (PBT or CBT).

Preparing for Fall 2015 AzMERIT EOC testing

The Fall 2015 EOC District Test Coordinator Important Tasks Checklist is available on the ADE Test Coordinator website here and the AzMERIT portal here. This should be printed and saved for future use.

Test Windows
CBT: October 26, 2015 – December 4, 2015 (Writing must be completed by November 13, 2015)
PBT: October 26, 2015 – November 6, 2015

Who Participates in Fall 2015 AzMERIT EOC Testing?

Students on track to complete any one-credit course aligned to one of the first three required years of high school English credit or aligned to one of the first three required years of high school math credit by the end of December 2015 should take the corresponding AzMERIT EOC test(s) during the Fall 2015 AzMERIT EOC test administration. Additional guidance about which students participate in AzMERIT EOC testing is posted here. Questions about which students should participate in Fall 2015 AzMERIT EOC testing should be emailed to AzMERIT@azed.gov.

Uploading Users into TIDE

TIDE opens on August 19, 2015. District Test Coordinators will receive an email on August 19, 2015 with their new password for TIDE. All other users in TIDE will keep their password from Spring 2015. District Test Coordinators must review the list of TIDE users for their district and schools, deleting, revising, and adding users as needed so that all TIDE users have appropriate access. The *TIDE User Guide,* which includes detailed information about deleting, revising, and adding users in TIDE, and a short demonstration video will be posted to the portal by August 19, 2015.

Uploading Student Enrollments into TIDE

For Fall 2015 AzMERIT EOC testing, **schools and districts are responsible for uploading their own students into TIDE during the window of August 19, 2015 – September 4, 2015.** Only enrollments for Fall 2015 AzMERIT EOC testing should be entered at this time. For PBT schools, pre-ID labels and test materials will be provided based on TIDE enrollments as of September 4. Student enrollments may be added after September 4, 2015 for both PBT and CBT schools. PBT schools will have to print "on demand" labels for students enrolled after September 4, 2015 and may have to place an additional materials order. The *TIDE User Guide,* which includes detailed directions for creating and uploading student detail files, and a short demonstration video will be posted to the portal by August 19, 2015.

Pre-Test Trainings for District Test Coordinators

Pre-Test Trainings will be available online September 14-25, 2015. District Test Coordinators with schools participating in the Fall 2015 AzMERIT administration must complete the training no later than September 25, 2015.

If you have any questions about AzMERIT, please email AzMERIT@azed.gov.

Alternate Assessment Eligibility-Combined Form

Going forward into the 2015-2016 school year, IEP Teams must discuss and determine eligibility and accommodations for both the AIMS A Science and the NCSC alternate assessments.

This combined alternate assessment eligibility form is posted on both the ADE AIMS A webpage and the NCSC webpage (This form remains unchanged from last year.) The document is located at:
http://www.azed.gov/assessment/files/2014/11/alternate-assessment-eligibility-combined-2014.pdf

AIMS A Science will be administered in Grades 4, 8, and 10.
NCSC (ELA and Mathematics) will be administered in Grades 3 – 8, and 11.

ADEConnect

All Alternate Assessment applications (AIMS A Science and Student Selector) will now be accessed through ADE Connect. All Entities will be responsible for adding and assigning the Alternate Assessment applications for Test Coordinators (TC) and Test Administrators/Teachers (TA).

- The ADE Alternate Assessment Unit Staff will act as secondary approvers for TCs only.
- **It is recommended that TC provide a list of all Test Administrators for AIMS A Science to both the ADE Alternate Assessment Unit and your District Entity Administrator as soon as possible. That list you provide to your District Entity Administrator and the Alternate Assessment Units's confirmation of your approved TAs.**
- This process will ensure that only those individuals that will be overseeing or administering the AIMS A Science Alternate Assessment will have access to the application through ADEConnect.

This process will replace the old procedure of submitting Username and Passwords for Common Logon. The TC will no longer be required to submit Common Logon Usernames and Password requests.
For more information on ADEConnect, please contact: http://www.azed.gov/aelas/adeconnect/. For questions about access to Alternate Assessments in ADEConnect, please contact us at 602-542-8239.

Spring 2015: NCSC Operational Test and Feedback from the Field

Thank you all for a successful administration of the NCSC Alternate Assessment. Over 6,800 student tests were submitted!

NCSC Standard Setting Process will take place August 10 – 13, 2015 in Indianapolis, IN. Arizona will have seven educator panelists participating in NCSC Standard Setting meeting.

NCSC Test Results will be available late Fall 2015. This includes District, School, and Student Reports. ADE will send hard copies of the reports to the Alternate Assessment Test Coordinator.

NCSC Online Training Modules:

- NCSC will utilize the online training modules as required training for both Alternate Assessment Test Coordinators and Test Administrators.

- Training will be required each year for both TCs and TAs, even if training was completed for the 2014-2015 school year.

If you have any questions regarding Alternate Assessments, please email AssessingSWDs@azed.gov**.**

NCSC Operational Test continued:

Feedback from the field has revealed concern for the length of the training. A modification to the training modules is being considered and more information will be forthcoming.

Another concern from the field was the difficulty of the NCSC test. Preliminary data is revealing a range of item difficulty. This is necessary to address the wide range of ability levels of the students who qualify for the alternate assessment and ensure that all students are able to demonstrate their abilities on items of varying difficulty. Final student data will be available late Fall 2015.

NCSC is considering implementation of a stage adaptive assessment. A stage adaptive assessment could address both difficulty and length of the test for individuals. Look for more information on this topic soon.

Accessing NCSC Information

For the NCSC Alternate Assessment, we will continue to provide support to Test Coordinators and Teachers via the Alternate Assessment-NCSC webpage http://www.azed.gov/assessment/ncsc/.

Test Coordinators and Teachers will have links for easy navigation and access to assessment and instructional resources. The focus on the following NCSC Instructional Supports and Resources will support access to the *AZCCRS*: *Instructional Resource Guide, Graduated Understandings/Instruction Families* and *Element Cards*.

NCSC Community of Practice (CoP)

Check out the NCSC CoP! The NCSC CoP is open to anyone. TCs, this is a great opportunity for teachers to discuss and learn more about various assessment and instructional topics related to Alternate Assessment. Dates and times are posted under *Webinar Call Dates* on the NCSC CoP webpage. Information can be located under the Community of Practice (CoP) tab http://www.azed.gov/assessment/ncsc-cop/.

Important dates: January 5, 2016 – January 31, 2016   Alternate Assessment Test Coordinators will identify eligible students on both **AIMS A Science and NCSC using the Student Selector Application in ADEConnect.** It is recommended that you begin to gather a list of eligible students.

AIMS A:
- November 2015 - Test Coordinators complete AIMS A Science training.
- February 15, 2016 through March 31, 2016 - AIMS A Science testing window.

A link to the updated *Test Coordinator* and *Test Administrator Manuals* will be posted on our AIMS A Science webpage. Timelines for test preparation and test administration remain the same.

NCSC:
- March 2016 – Online Training Modules
- March through May 2016 – NCSC Test Window

Reminder: All important dates are also posted on the Assessment Calendar.

ADE Customer Survey Results

Thank you for your feedback through the annual ADE External Customer Satisfaction Survey. Each year the Alternate Assessment Unit examines the results to find areas in which improvements can be made.

This year we will:
- Continue to strive to have exceptional response times to your questions or concerns either through emails or phone calls
- Provide more accurate and proactive communication regarding NCSC.

If you have any questions regarding Alternate Assessments, please email AssessingSWDs@azed.gov**.**

Please see the AZELLA District Test Coordinator's To-Do List for a list of tasks that need to be completed in preparation for AZELLA Placement Testing.

AZELLA District Test Coordinators and Test Administrators will find few changes in test administration for the 2015-2016 year. Placement Testing will continue throughout the year using the same test materials with registration and scoring to continue to be facilitated through *PearsonAccess*. The District Test Coordinator training remains web-based through BlackBoard. Qualification for Kindergarten Placement Test administration and AZELLA Placement Test Writing scoring will continue to be offered through *PearsonPerspective*. Training for the Spring 2016 Reassessment will be offered later in the year, with the test window scheduled for Feb. 8 - March 25, 2016.

ADEConnect

ADE's Common Logon is being phased out. All AZELLA applications are now located on ADEConnect. AZELLA District Test Coordinators must have access to ADEConnect with the role of AZELLA District Test Coordinator. Please contact your Entity Administrator to gain access to ADEConnect. Only the designated AZELLA District Test Coordinator may be assigned the ADEConnect user roles, "AZELLA Corrections / SDELL Reports: AZELLA District Test Coordinator." All others who need access to the AZELLA Corrections / SDELL Report application must be assigned the ADEConnect user roles, "ELL."

Download all AZELLA Reports from 2014-2015

AZELLA reporting from school year 2014-2015, both Placement Test and Reassessment reports, will be permanently removed from *PearsonAccess* on **September 30, 2015**. If you have not done so already, download these reports and save locally in a secure location. All AZELLA results are part of a student's permanent record. ADE does not keep copies of these records.

AZELLA 2015-2016 Placement Test Scoring and Reporting Cycles

AZELLA Placement Test reports will be produced based on the cycle dates shown below. Student results will not be reported until the student's SAIS ID is entered (unless the student is tested at a BIE or private school).

Cycle	Last Key Entry Date	Electronic Results Posted	Paper Reports Due
1	8/07/2015	8/27/2015	9/03/2015
2	8/21/2015	9/10/2015	9/25/2015
3	9/04/2015	9/24/2015	10/01/2015
4	9/18/2015	10/08/2015	10/15/2015
5	10/16/2015	11/05/2015	11/12/2015
6	11/20/2015	12/10/2015	12/17/2015
7	12/18/2015	1/07/2016	1/14/2016
8	1/29/2016	2/19/2016	2/25/2016
9	2/26/2016	3/10/2016	3/17/2016
10	3/25/2016	4/14/2016	4/21/2016
11	4/22/2016	5/12/2016	5/19/2016
12	5/20/2016	6/09/2016	6/16/2016

AZELLA District Test Coordinators may choose which *AZELLA Placement Test* Reports are provided in paper. The default option is paper reports for both Student Reports and Roster Reports. To change paper preferences, go to the **Test Setup** tab in *PearsonAccess*. Enter **Administration Details** and click the **Edit** button. Select the **No** radio button to opt out of receiving printed copies of the Student Report or the Roster Report. Be sure to click **Save**. The paper preferences can be changed for every scoring cycle if desired. Once the majority of *AZELLA Placement Testing* is complete, AZELLA District Test Coordinators might opt to receive only Student Reports on paper.

AZELLA - continued

AZELLA Data

There are several steps you can take to ensure that your students' AZELLA data are as accurate as possible.

- Do not administer an *AZELLA Placement Test* without first referencing the student's SDELL70 report to determine that a placement test is needed. You are not required to run an SDELL70 report for first-time Kindergarten students entering at the start of the school year.
- Make certain that student name, date of birth, and SAIS ID key-entered on the Placement Test exactly match what is entered in SAIS for that student.
- For *AZELLA Placement Tests*, enter the SAIS ID number for the student as soon as it is known. Placement Tests without SAIS IDs are not reported to ADE.
- Prior to the final day of the scoring cycle, review the *PearsonAccess* Summary Status Report. Use the instructions provided in the AZELLA Placement Test Training to confirm that all AZELLA Placement Tests are complete and ready to report out at the end of the scoring cycle.
- When the scoring cycle results are posted, review the AZELLA Corrections app on ADEConnect. Correct AZELLA errors as soon as possible. Records in the AZELLA Corrections app are not visible in an SDELL70 report.

AZELLA Customer Service Survey Results

ADE has made a commitment to deliver "Knock Your Socks Off" service to our educational community. To gauge our success in achieving this goal, we annually survey our AZELLA constituents. We thank all of you who have taken the time to respond to the survey and to provide thoughtful comments on the service you have received from our staff.

Emailing AZELLA Team - When emailing AZELLA@azed.gov, please:

- Use a meaningful subject line that includes your district name.
- Include full contact information in your signature line or elsewhere in the email.
- Include the student's SAIS number, if your question is in regard to a specific student. For FERPA reasons, please do not include the student's name and birthdate when providing ADE with the SAIS ID.

The AZELLA Team strives to respond to emails within one business day unless further research is needed.

OELAS Updates

A **Practitioners of English Language Learning (PELL)** meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 9, 2015 at the Black Canyon Conference Center in Phoenix. A one-day **ELL Coordinator Boot Camp** is scheduled for Thursday, September 10, 2015, also at the Black Canyon Conference Center in Phoenix. This training is strictly limited to ELL Coordinators with less than two years of experience. Registration is $75.00 for each meeting and includes breakfast, snacks, and lunch. Registration for these events will open on August 5, 2015. For more detailed information, please click here.

Save the Date: 2015 OELAS Conference – Optimizing Opportunities: The 2015 OELAS Conference will take place December 9-11, 2015 at the JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort in Tucson, Arizona. Registration for this event is $395 per person and will open August 19, 2015. For more information about this event, please click here.

2015 Arizona ELL Teacher of the Year and 2015 Student Success Stories: We are excited to announce that the annual Student Success Stories award program will be combined with the annual Arizona ELL Teacher of the Year program at the 2015 OELAS Conference. All of this year's awardees will be honored at a banquet on Wednesday, December 9, 2015 at the JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort in Tucson, Arizona. Nomination forms are available here.

Nominations for the **2015 Arizona ELL Teacher of the Year** are due to OELAS by **August 17, 2015**.
Nominations for the **2015 Student Success Stories** are due to OELAS by **October 2, 2015**.

If you have any questions regarding AZELLA, please email AZELLA@azed.gov**.**

NAEP

NAEP and International Assessments

NAEP/PIRLS 2016 and PISA 2015 Participating Schools Only

NAEP 2016

- We emailed notification letters with assessment dates to district/charter superintendents, test coordinators, and principals of a small number of schools selected for NAEP 2016.
- School Coordinator packets will be mailed out to principals by September 4, 2015. Principals will be asked to designate a school coordinator by September 11, 2015 give the coordinator the packet, and have them register on the   MyNAEP site.

PIRLS 2016 District Test Coordinators and School Coordinators

- We emailed notification letters with assessment dates to district/charter superintendents, test coordinators, and principals of a small number of schools selected for PIRLS 2016.
- Principals are asked to select their school coordinator by September 11, 2015.

PISA 2015 (Program for International Student Assessment) Principals and School Coordinators

- All schools have been notified and should be preparing for assessment tasks. Should you have questions or need support, the **PISA Field Manger, Jody Wiggins,** and can be reached at **JodyWiggins@fieldstaff.westat.com or 563-583-4825 home/office and 563-599-0770.**

NAEP 2015 results are scheduled to be released in the Fall and an invitation to the press conference webinar will be emailed one week prior to the release.

NAEP and International Assessment Windows to Calendar

NAEP 2016 Assessment Window

January 25, 2016 – March 4, 2016
> National Arts at Grade 8
> Digital Based (Tablet) Pilot Writing Grades 8 and 12
> Digital Based (Tablet) Pilot Math and Reading Grades 4 and 8

PIRLS 2016 Assessment Window   (every 5 years)

March 1, 2016 – May 27, 2016

PISA 2015 Assessment Window (every 3 years)

Follow NAEP on social media:

October 5, 2015 – November 13, 2015
> Math, Reading, Science, Financial Literacy, Collaborative Problem Solving
> 15 year–olds.

If you have any questions regarding NAEP, please contact Shelly Pollnow, Ed.D., Director of the NAEP Program and International Assessments for Arizona at phone: 602.364.1583 or email: NAEP@azed.gov

NAEP - continued

NAEP and International Assessments

WHAT IS NAEP?

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is an essential measurement of student achievement in the United States.
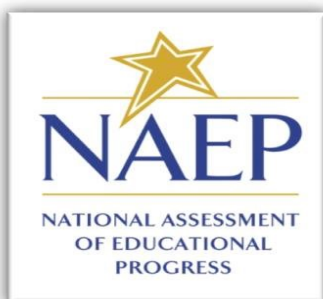
First administered in 1969, NAEP is the largest continuing and nationally representative assessment of what our nation's students know and can do in core subjects such as mathematics, reading, science, and writing.
The schools and students participating in NAEP represent other schools and students across the country. NAEP is considered the gold standard of assessments because of its high technical quality. From developing frameworks and questions to the reporting of results, NAEP represents the best thinking of assessment and content specialists, state education staff, and teachers from around the nation. NAEP monitors academic progress over time and reports on student achievement at the national and state level only. For more information about NAEP, visit:
http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard.

What is PISA?

The Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) is an international assessment of 15-year-old students, conducted every 3 years, that measures how well students apply their knowledge and skills in science, reading, and mathematics to problems in real-life contexts. In 2015, students from more than 70 countries and education systems, including the United States will participate. PISA is coordinated by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and managed in the United States by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) within the U.S. Department of Education. Visit the PISA website at http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pisa.

What is PIRLS?

The Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS), conducted every 5 years, is an international comparative study of the reading literacy of young students. PIRLS studies the reading achievement and reading behaviors and attitudes of 4th-grade students in the United States and students in the equivalent of 4th grade in other participating countries. In 2016, PIRLS will involve students from more than 40 countries, including the United States. For the first time PIRLS will also include an innovative assessment of online reading called ePIRLS. Visit the PIRLS website at http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pirls/index.asp.